

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application. Claims 1-5 and 9-21 are pending. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 12, 2005. In this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 9-21 have been amended to be made method claims to overcome one of the Examiner's concerns as to form and format. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 9-12, 14 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,606,606 (hereinafter Starr). The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr in view of the article "Multex Launches Research-ON-Demand", Information Today; v 15, n4, p28, April 1998; extracted on Internet from Dialog on Internet on 8/24/2004 (hereinafter Multex). The Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,136,501 (hereinafter Silverman). The Examiner has rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr in view of Multex, and further in view U.S. Patent No. 6,039,244 (hereinafter Finsterwald).

Applicants respectfully submit the cited art fails to teach, *inter alia*, as claimed in claim 1:

providing a database within at least one server operatively connected to the network, the database containing data from at least one customer;

providing a system administration module for granting the user access rights to a customer's industry data;

allowing the user to access a customer's industry data across the network upon being granted access rights by the system administration module,

wherein the system administration module provides at least three levels of access security including:

a first access level enabling the user to access public oil and gas industry data without system registration,

a second access level enabling the user to access specific oil and gas industry data only after system registration, and

a third level of access security enabling the user to access and manipulate a customer's oil and gas industry data after the customer grants access approval to the user upon completion of at least one transaction.

Similar limitations are included in independent claim 20.

In particular, the cited art fails to teach or suggest a method for managing oil and gas industry data and granting a user access to the data over a network, in which a system administration module provides at least three levels of access, the three levels of access enabling a user to access public oil and gas industry data, access specific oil and gas industry data, and access and manipulate oil and gas industry data, respectively.

Starr is directed to systems and methods for performing integrated financial transactions using an integrated package that integrates financial service providers, such as a payroll service provider, a retirement plan service provider, a healthcare

service provider or another type of service provider. In particular, Starr is directed to an integrated financial transaction system that performs integrated financial transactions that occur between a plurality of financial service providers.

Starr does not disclose a method for managing oil and gas industry data as presently claimed. In particular, Starr does not disclose various access levels related to the oil and gas industry data.

Instead, Starr merely teaches that the access controller can determine the class of access to grant the subscriber. Starr also provides examples of the access classes: each account can have a root user that is capable of creating sub accounts on the server, or the sub accounts can have different levels of user privileges, such that certain users may have read only access or restrict a sub account user to certain transactions. Starr, therefore, is directed to various access levels related to the financial transactions, sub-accounts, and financial service providers.

In contrast, embodiments of the presently claimed invention provide various access levels to oil and gas industry data of differing sensitivity, commercial value or character.

As disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of the present specification, there are significant potential risks in the oil and gas industry, which has caused Industry participants to adopt risk-sharing strategies that involve accumulation and selective sharing of information gathered. In the past, the information was maintained and archived in a physical format and more or less secure and private

physical exchanges were required to exchange data. In addition, owners of the information desire security over the information to retain the value of the information. Thus, there has been a need for technology enabling the integration of oil office or physical data room capabilities into a unified package which addresses the issues including data publication and processing, marketing, security, transaction, confidentiality, and timeliness in the context of multi-party involvement in the oil and gas industry. In particular, there has been a need for technology enabling a variety of functions including viewing oil and gas industry data including seismic data and other information relating to any geographical area (prospect or property) of interest, manipulating exploration and production data and information, transmission of data and information in a secure manner between interested parties, effective and efficient storage of data and information, logging and recording accesses and requests, and providing access to various product and service providers in a selectively secure and confidential manner.

Thus, there is no motivation to modify a system of the type disclosed in Starr's customer service-provider integration piece to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

Multex is directed to a database of recently published brokerage reports that are available for purchase. Documents are located by ticker symbol, industry, brokerage firm, keywords and phrases, as well as user-defined portfolios and profiles. Multex does not disclose a method for managing oil and gas industry data having various

access levels related to the oil and gas industry data, and to the user, as presently claimed.

Silverman is directed to an anonymous matching system for trading instruments in which bids are automatically matched against offers for given trading instruments. Silverman also does not disclose a method for managing oil and gas industry data having various access levels related to the oil and gas industry data and the user, as presently claimed.

Finsterwald is directed to a method of building up a data bank containing customer data and the organization of a rebate/coupon system. Finsterwald does not disclose a method for managing oil and gas industry data having various access levels related to the oil and gas industry data and the user, as presently claimed.

Therefore, neither Starr, Multex, Silverman, Finsterwald, nor combinations thereof disclose or suggest the claimed limitations of independent claim 1 and 20. Claims 2-5, 9-19 and 21 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the foregoing independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 9-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Having tendered the above remarks and amended the claims as indicated herein, the Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been addressed and that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jennifer Hayes at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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